DWeb Weekend 2025 - Saturday 8/16/2025

Roundtable Discussion 2.3

Title: *How do we fund this?*
Time: *14:00 - 14:45*
Attendees: *X, Y*
Note taker: *Z*

Please add your /initials/ at the front of a comment

General Notes

How do we more seriously engage with money to make things more stable?

REMINDER: Everyone has different risk profiles; we all come at "open source" differntly?

1. SV: Even hugely popular game developer (free game) did not result in $; social popularity does not = financial sustainability
2. WH: Earned Income – Integrity, flexibility, values earns us a lot of cred with our customers (libraries)
3. GS: We are offering a dual license – is the plan (Free with constraints; pay for those who make more)
4. IROH does a special license with a free for those under $X;
5. Business Source License: For example: Space Time DB; after four years it will "decay" into an open source AGPL license over time; if you productize their code, you must pay them unless it has "lapsed" into open source;
6. SG: As soon as I make $X, the software is free
7. MI: Just go make some money – without Open Source – then strap on open source;
8. GS: Made a product he sold (encryption software) and did not make that

open source; that funding allowed him to do his next Open Source projects;

WHY OPEN SOURCE?

10. If it is running on others servers, I think it is important; if it's on your own servers, its okay to not have Open Source; we only release AGPL software to encourage people to use our hardware?
11. If we are trying to help people be secure, the transparency of our code is verifiable
12. One coder works for a game company where half the code is open source; allows coders to use the mods more easily; having bug fixes done by the community is good

PROPRIETARY SOFTWARE DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOU WILL MAKE $$

13. Discord, for instance, has been struggling;

DEEP INFRASTRUCTURE USUALLY IS SUSTAINED BY THE COMMONS

14. We tried to do an open source project guided by foundation; then we did a for profit version where the tokenization profits go to the nonprofit; Ultimately the token is dwindling, so unclear if they will be sustainable
a. where do you put the enclosed entity? If you just enclose it so you can, that seems like a bad; "rent-seeking
b. If you enclose it b/c that makes sense for other reasons
EG – Mattermost (makes money reducing risk; if they run it for you, you play)

15. Succeed - Ethereum, Blockchain – are long running – financial infrastructure

16. Open Collective – Foundation that provides fiscal hosting services for a fee;
    a. Open Collective, Inc makes software for this venture; it runs Open Collective in symbiosis
    b. Open Collective.com (http://Collective.com) developed partnerships around the world

17. "Selling shovels to the goldrush people" is a good model

18. If you can help people move money (financial services) its a convenient

model

19. Brewster & IA: "loves having .org after his name; nonprofits have potential to last for the longrun"

20. VLOBLOX – why open source the code; to get users to build on it; greenwashing

21. META AI – why open source: they want to be part of a massive market and capture mind-share and devs; they want devs to choose them; META is sneaky; LLMs are replacing search, so by controlling search they get to influence the minds of users; when you ask LLAMA 4 or 5, they can provide a biased answer and charge for that;

22. INFRASTRUCTURE like Linux is the easiest– big, theoretical; hardest is the UI, public-facing software

23. HOW TO FUND MOSS – Browser for social spaces –
    a. funding is about relationships
    b. that requires human connectivity

24. SAVING POOLS

Summary to be reported to the other DWeb Weekend participants

QUESTION: We are building Values Driven Tech. How do we more seriously engage with money to make things more stable?

VARIOUS MODELS OF FUNDING OPEN SOURCE:
a) Full open source may not be the best answer? Dual Licenses – IROH –free and paid tiers; or providing a service (MatterBridge)
b) Nonprofit as parent to for-profit – Holochain; Mozilla; profits are captured and

used by do-good org.

c) Earned Income model – IA – you could get web archving for free, many orgs too small (flexibility, service, friendship)
d) .org vs. .com (.org can be more sustainable; built for 100 years)
– often times $ is scarce, slow careful, planned growth; you have to husband your resources carefully
e) Earn a bunch of $ first, thru propreitary software, use it to fund your Open Source projects
f) For social good projects – there is the possibility of turning to philanthropic $ $; that kind of funding is about relathipships; human connectivity; good storytelling
g) Must be able to answer four questions:
i. What problem am I trying to solve
ii. How will I solve it?
iii. What will be the impact of my work?
iv. Why am I the one to do that work

name of the reporter

––Wendy Hanamura